

Remarks and Conclusion

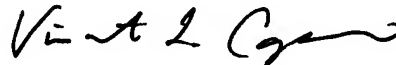
No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 14 being the independent claims.

Original patent claims 2-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,248,127 have not been amended and are pending. Original patent claim 1 has been amended to remove certain subject matter. New claims 14-26 have been added. The statement required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c) is provided in a separate paper filed herewith.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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